specific projects in order to promote national aeronautics related efforts in an organized manner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

NCAER report on Air Tariff

2897. SHRI SK. KHABIRUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2165 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of NCAER; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report *inter alia* has recommended autonomy for national carriers, creation of independent Civil Aviation Authority, increased usage of bilaterals with private sector participation, reduction in ATF prices and airport charges, optimal use of airport infrastructure, subsidising uneconomic routes, encouraging use of small aircraft on uneconomic routes, removal of route dispersal guidelines, creation of a hub in North East to develop operational and maintenance activities, Government's support for adequate insurance coverage, autonomy in airport management, expansion of low cost airlines etc. Many of the recommendations have already been implemented or form part of the draft civil aviation policy.

Making Al offices passenger friendly

2898. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps recently to streamline the working of Air India Offices abroad to make them more passenger friendly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India Staff College—the training arm of the Commercial Department of Air India is from time to time conducting various programmes to keep frontline personnel customer oriented. Recently, the College conceptualized and developed a Corporate Training Programme titled "Making a Difference to Make Air India Different". The thrust of this programme was self motivation and to make every employees recognize his/her role as a change agent and make a Personal Quality Commitment.

Losses suffered by Sonegaon Airport

2899. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sonegaon airport at Nagpur had incurred Rs. 15 crore loss and that AAI was running the airport only because it is a socially useful facility;

(b) if so, the details of revenue and expenditure of Nagpur airport during April-September 2005 and from April 2004 to March 2005; and

(c) what measures are being taken to make Sonegaon airport a profit-making and what is the time-frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Sonegaon airport at Nagpur incurred a loss of Rs. 15.24 crores during 2003-04. The decision to operate an airport is based on several demand side, supply side and other consideration.

(b) The revenue and expenditure of Nagpur airport during the first April-September 2005 was Rs. 326.62 lakhs and Rs. 1328.91 lakhs and from April 2004 to March 2005 it was Rs. 781.65 lakhs and Rs. 3700.37 lakhs respectively.

(c) Efforts are being made to increase the revenue, particularly the non-traffic revenue and also to reduce the controllable expenditure, wherever possible, to reduce the loss. No definite time frame can be prescribed in this connection.